

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farmers' Club Questions and Answers.

Does rye make good fodder?

Rye for fodder makes probably the best early feed that can be grown, but care must be taken to cut it before it gets ripe or stock will not relish it.

Can fruit trees be grown successfully in wooden troughs?

Very prolific dwarf trees may be produced in wooden troughs in the open air. As in pot culture, so in these troughs, the roots are restricted and an early fruit condition secured. Farmers who have plenty of land have no need for adopting this mode of culture, but persons in cities have furnished considerable fruit in this way. In latitudes where apricots and nectarines have not time in ordinary orchard culture, an arrangement of this kind on the sheltered side of a garden fence has been introduced with profit.

What proportions are these troughs or boxes made?

They are usually made with twelve-inch-wide boards for sides and bottom, nailing the sides to the bottom to guard against roots protruding into the soil beneath; these may be of any length; the trees are generally set about three feet apart.

Can anything be done at this season to assist in bringing back a good even growth of grass to a lawn that has become thin?

Yes; give it a top dressing of good stable manure at once. Let it be well laid all over the surface, and have a care that the manure is well rotted. As occasion offers during the winter it should be broken up and manipulated with an iron rake. The object is to distribute it evenly over the entire surface, so that it will settle down and moisten the good roots. When spring opens the rough straw portions, if any are left, should be removed, otherwise it will interfere with the proper keeping of the surface.

Why are not liquid manures more generally used on farm crops?

The expense of their application on a large scale prevents the extensive use of liquid manures. Their value in floral cultivation is acknowledged by all. In the pot culture of plants, where the amount of soil is limited, when judiciously applied liquid manure is of vast service. Much harm, however, may be occasioned by its indiscriminate use. Healthy and well rooted plants, such as are well supplied with hungry roots but grow slowly for want of nutriment, as orange and lemon trees, etc., for years in the same pot or tub, are greatly benefited by its application.

For what crops are ashes specially beneficial as a fertilizer?

Ashes are among the best of fertilizers for onions. For this crop they should be strewn along the rows, lengthwise, and the cultivator then run between them, or else hoed by hand. Applied to Indian corn, a handful to each hill, immediately before a rain storm or just before a crop is hoed, ashes give good returns. For vines in the garden they are also desirable. Ashes applied to grass lands just after the first crop of hay has been taken off is said to have a fine effect.

Housekeeping Department.

CEMENT FOR GLASS.—Take quicklime, whites of eggs and old thick varnish; grind and temper well together, and it is ready for use.

DOORS CREAKING.—To prevent the creaking of doors apply a little soap to the hinges, or take lard, soap and black lead, equal parts, and apply.

COVERING FOR JARS.—A good waterproof paper for covering jars used in preserving, etc., may be made by brushing over the paper with boiled linseed oil and suspending it over a line until dry.

TO CLEAN GOLD LACE.—Gold lace is easily cleaned and restored to its original brightness by rubbing it with a soft brush dipped in rosin-alum burnt, sifted to a very fine powder.

INK STAINS.—The best means to remove ink stains from linen or any white material is to immerse the spot in milk and keep it there until the ink disappears, changing the milk when it gets thick.

VERMICELLI PUDDING.—Boil two ounces of vermicelli in a pint of new milk till soft, with a little cream; when cold add a quarter of a pint of good cream, five yolks of eggs, a quarter of a pound of butter and a little sugar; bake it.

MILK LEMONADE.—A pound and a half of loaf sugar dissolved in a quart of boiling water, with half a pint of lemon juice, and a pint and a half of milk added, makes a capital drink.

JELLY ROLLS.—Three cupsful of sugar, one cupful of butter, five cupsful of flour, one cupful of milk, five eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, two of cream tartar; bake in thin sheets, spread with currant jelly, and roll when cold, or in round, thin cakes, and spread, laying three or four cakes one upon another.

QUINCE CAKES.—Boil quinces till soft enough to pass a knife through, drain the fruit on a sieve, peel them, scrape and extract the core; pass the pulp through a sieve, and mix with an equal quantity of powdered sugar till the mass easily separates from the saucenpan. Put into molds, and keep for some days in a warm place.

STAFFORDSHIRE BEEFSTEAK.—Beat them a little with a rolling pin, flour and season, then fry with a sliced onion of a fine light brown; lay the steaks into a stewpan and pour as much boiling water over them as will serve for sauce; stew them very gently half an hour and add a spoonful of catsup before serving.

APPLE MARMALADE.—Take four pounds of cooking apples; pare and core them, put them in an enameled saucepan with about a quart of sweet cider and two pounds of castor sugar. Boil them until the fruit is quite soft. Squeeze it through a colander, and then through a sieve. Put away in jars covered with oiled paper and made perfectly air tight.

Very Warm.

One of the United States marshals at Boston—a man whom all citizens of that small town will remember—was a wit of dry and quaint sort. When on his death-bed one of his friends appeared to comfort him. "Well, colonel," said the sick man, despondently, "I'm going. I shan't be alive an hour from now." "The colonel felt of the invalid's feet." "No, sense," said he, "your feet are warm. No man was ever known to die when his feet were warm." "Ugh!" said the dying man, sharply. "What about John Rogers?"

BOGUS SILVER PLATED WARE.—It has been said that three-fourths of all the professed triple or double refined, etc., plated silverware is but a sham; simply white metal with the slightest kind of a washing of poor silver. Moral—Don't buy it, even though manufacturers claim to have taken first premiums at all the great fairs.

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Raising Large Crops of Corn.

S. J. Crane, Vineland, N. J., who represented himself as an honest inquirer after the truth, asked permission to propound to the farmers' club the agricultural conundrum, viz.: Why do not some of the members of thought tell how to raise a large crop of Indian corn instead of conjuring up unintelligible and non-practical formulas for making fertilizers which will not return the proprietor as much money as he expended in purchasing the crude chemicals?

It requires not only corn formula, but a vast amount of hard-fisted industry, to raise a satisfactory growth of corn. Before one can produce a bountiful crop of Indian corn the soil must be fattened, especially a soil that has been impoverished by injudicious management. Chemists write on agricultural topics. It is a tedious process to improve land of ordinary fertility so that it will yield one hundred bushels per acre. If the soil is thin or run down, it must have large quantities of barnyard manure worked in; clover or maize, or both, must be plowed under, and the plow, harrow and roller used to turn up, tear in fragments and crush to fine atoms the entire seed bed. Little by little the productivity of the land will increase by these means; then, when it has been brought up to the point of yielding forty or fifty bushels of shelled corn it will be safe to apply chemical fertilization; for every dollar expended for the required elements will be the means of producing more than three its value in the increased yield of corn.

A member added that sufficient plowing enhances the fertility of the soil in a great degree. Especially is this true with cornfields. The more frequently the ground is stirred, if done carefully, so as not to injure the roots, the more rapid will be the growth and the more abundant the yield. Farmers who have tried it affirm that if the plow is used again in a month or six weeks, and still again in the early winter, plowing a little deeper every time, the benefit to succeeding crops will be equal to a coating of manure. The more finely adobe soils are pulverized the more readily they appropriate and impart to the plant the nutriment supplied them, whether it is gained from the atmosphere or from fertilizers applied; consequently the policy of frequent plowing as a preparation for the growth of a large corn crop was urged by this member. In green manuring of land he advised the plowing of rye as very advantageous. The grain should be plowed in about the time that the rye has attained its full growth, but a little before blossoming. It should be rolled down flat first, so as to be readily covered. This process enables the land to be quickly supplied with a large amount of valuable plant food in the organic and mineral elements gained, nearly equal in value to a good dressing of guano. Regarding artificial manure for the corn crop, the member referred to Professor Cook's experiments; the deductions from the results gained by him were that the muriate of potash, applied at the rate of one hundred pounds per acre upon soil of an excellent character, is very effective and may be profitably used; that any other fertilizers than potash salts can be used only at a loss upon a corn crop grown upon soil in good condition; that even barnyard manure may be used to excess, and therefore unprofitable, when the soil has been brought by previous good culture and fertilizing up to a certain standard of productiveness; that the direct application of barnyard manure to the corn crop is not so effective as applications well incorporated with the soil; that a decaying clover sod furnishes abundant ammonia for a full crop of corn, and, finally, that a previously manured clover sod is the best of all preparation for a corn crop.

The Housekeeper.

MACARONI.—Blanch and pound eight ounces of almonds in a mortar with a little water; beat them with the whites of eight eggs; then mix with two pounds of sugar sifted; with the almonds to a paste; lay a sheet of paper on a tin and put the mixture on with a spoon.

TO CLEANSE THE HEAD.—A dime's worth of pulverized borax, dissolved thoroughly in a pint of water. Cleanse the head, especially the partings, once a week, afterward rinsing with cold water. Will keep the head very clean, and impart a glossy look to the hair, especially if each application is followed by a vigorous brushing.

HARRISON PUDDING.—One and one-half cupsful of chopped suet, one cupful of molasses, and one and one-half cupsful of chopped raisins, one cupful of sugar, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, or two teaspoonsful of baking powder, sifted through the flour thoroughly; spices, and stir as thick as for pound cake, and boil three hours. Sauce made of egg, sugar and cream, or any other rich recipe.

APPLES IN RICE.—Scoop out the cores and pare very neatly half a dozen good sized apples; boil them in thin, clarified sugar; let them imbibe the sugar, and be careful to preserve their form. Make a marmalade with some other apples, adding to it apricot marmalade and four ounces of rice, previously boiled in milk, with sugar and butter, and the yolks of two or three eggs; put them into a dish for table, surround it with a border of rice and marmalade and bake it.

To Get Rid of Quack Grass and Thistles.

To destroy quack grass of any of the different species to which this term is applied, the ground should be plowed and harrowed thoroughly and the roots picked off the surface. Any left will grow again. Potatoes, corn, beans or other hoed crops should be grown and kept cultivated and weeded thoroughly. There will be little quack left after three or four hoeings have been taken. Thistles may be destroyed by plowing lightly, so as to cut the stem but not the roots, and then growing crops that are cultivated continually.

He Didn't Want to Embarrass Things.

"I would like to be present at your party," replied a stylish Chicago tailor to a fashionable society lady, "but I do not think it would be best."

"And why not, pray?" inquired she.

"Well, I'll tell you," said the tailor, growing confidential; "I'm afraid if I should attend I should meet so many young fellows who owe me money for their clothes they have on that it would cause embarrassment, and perhaps mar the happiness of the occasion."

The woman grew thoughtful, and seemed to lose interest in her prospective soiree.

A Married Woman.

A married woman, now an inmate of a poorhouse in Illinois, has brought suit against her father and brother, who are wealthy, to compel them to support her. She was once the belle of her vicinity, and after a short time of married life was deserted by her husband.

The Hats which the Ladies Pull Down over their Eyes.

What's the matter with you?

THE ASHTABULA DISASTER.

What Caused It—Three Points of Importance Discussed.

The testimony concerning the Ashtabula calamity is confused and to a certain extent contradictory. There are three points of importance: (1) Whether it was suspected beforehand that the bridge was weak, the suspicion arising from known faults in its construction; (2) whether the iron used in the bridge was of good quality; (3) as to reprehensible neglect in putting out the fire. On the last of these points the inquiry is likely to be thorough. A great deal of feeling has been aroused upon this point at Ashtabula. The witnesses testify to the abundance of means for extinguishing fire. There was plenty of water and hose, a steam pump with steam up was at hand, and finally a fire brigade was there before the fire had reached its height. The excuses made for neglecting to couple the hose and turn on a stream of water are lame and unsatisfactory. It is not necessary to ascribe an indifference or a malice that would be hostile to the men who are responsible for that neglect, but simply incompetent. It is not certain that any lives could have been saved if water had been turned on and the fire extinguished as soon as was practicable; but, unhappily, there is still room for a suspicion that all who were buried in the wreck were not dead when the firemen concluded not to extinguish the flames. The fact that cries were no longer heard from the wreck seems to be deemed satisfactory on this point by some of the witnesses, but it is certainly not proof that there was no life there. Mr. Lyons, one of the survivors, believes that many lives could have been saved if water had been promptly turned on. In any event the early extinction of the fire would have been of immeasurable service in enabling the dead to be identified. The excuse is that the rescuers were wholly busied in helping the living, and spared no effort in assisting the sufferers.

FIN FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Will charm everybody, both old and young.

Among the more notable papers will be found a "Letter to a Young Naturalist," by William Howitt, the poet, and the "Stars for January," by Prof. Proctor, the astronomer.

ST. NICHOLAS FOR JANUARY.

Will also contain a paper by Horace Scudder, "Great Grandfather's Books and Pictures," with fine illustrations from the "New England Primer" and Webster's old "Spelling Book." "Budge's Visit to the Centennial," by the author of "Helen's Babies," and "The Modern and Medieval Ballad of Mary Jane," with silhouette drawings by Hopkins, will be found amusing and entertaining. Besides

"HIS OWN MASTER," by Trowbridge.

There are shorter stories and poems, Rhymes and Nonsense Verses, Historical Sketches, a Fairy Tale, Comical Pictures, Pages for Very Little Folks, etc. In short, this is the New Year's Number of that magazine, of which the London Daily News said: "We wish we could point to its equal in our own Periodical Literature."

Send one dollar for a trial subscription, beginning with the November number, with William Cullen Bryant's "Boys of my Boyhood," and the New Year's number, with William Howitt's "Letter to a Young Naturalist," and the February number, which will have

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By Tom Hughes, that earnest, honest, strong-hearted Englishman, who is known all over the world as "the friend of the schoolboy."

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Cowardly Assaults.

When a candidate for high office is so well liked and so popular with the masses as to make his defeat difficult by fair and honorable fight, mean and cowardly men are not wanting to resort to the use of force and violence and slandering his good name. There are also those whose selfishness prompts them to prostitute their honor, pervert truth, and ignore right, for the sake of a political position.

These thoughts are suggested by the case of education and position, for the good of the people—the more completely to blind the reader to the real object in their circulation, which is to injure the sale of my medicines.

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